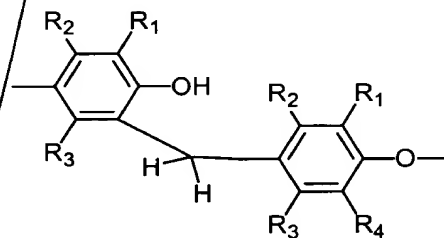


(1)

(wherein R₁ and R₄ each independently represents hydrogen, a primary or secondary lower alkyl, a phenyl, an aminoalkyl or a hydrocarbonoxy, and R₂ and R₃ each independently represents hydrogen, a primary or secondary lower alkyl or a phenyl), and 0.01 to 10.0 parts by weight of (B) a modifier selected from the group consisting of conjugated non-aromatic diene compounds, dienophilic compounds having one dienophile group and precursors of the diene or dienophilic compounds, wherein the number of rearrangement structures each represented by the following formula (2):



(2)

(wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ have the same meanings as defined above in the formula (1)) is less than 0.01 per 100 phenylene ether units of the formula (1).

7. (Amended) A process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin, which comprises:

Ar ^{sub B} reacting a mixture of 100 parts by weight of (A) a polyphenylene ether having a main chain structure of the formula (1) and 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of (B) a modifier selected from the group consisting of conjugated non-aromatic diene compounds, dienophilic compounds having one dienophile group and precursors of the diene or dienophilic compounds at a temperature not lower than a room temperature and not higher than the melting point of (A).

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are in the case. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to correct the improper Markush language in said claims. No new matter has been added and the claims have not been narrowed by the amendment. Favorable consideration of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

In response to the Election Requirement in the Office Communication, applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, 1). poly (2,6-dimethyl-1,4-phenylene ether) (A1 or A2 as shown on page 27) as PPE with claims 1-15 being with them; 2). Maleic anhydride (B1 as shown on page 28) as Modifier B with claims 1-15 being with them; and 3). Henschel mixer as the mixing means with claims 7-10, 12, 14 and 15 being with them, for prosecution in this application.